

The Midwest communities our Members represent are home to people who make, build, and grow that which makes, builds, and grows America.

For decades, however, our region has borne the brunt of job losses associated with disastrous trade policies, underinvestment, and deindustrialization.

Since the passage of NAFTA in 1993, China's entrance into the World Trade Organization in 2001, and CAFTA's passage in 2005, over 91,000 factories have closed across our country.

Nearly 5 million good-paying jobs have been lost, and our region has been very hard hit and is clawing its way back.

But our workers and their families in Ohio, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and New York, in the Great Lakes watershed have suffered enormously as middle class jobs evaporated.

The tragedy does not end there. Local governments have been left to scramble as declining revenues led to the collapse of their budgets and the accrual of crushing bonded indebtedness.

The size and scope of these accumulated economic challenges are too much for any one city or county or, indeed, State to overcome alone. Places like Toledo, Ohio, Lorain, Detroit, Buffalo, Flint, Rochester, all the towns along the old Erie Canal struggle to recover from the outsourcing of manufacturing jobs to penny-wage countries.

Chicago, Cleveland, and Erie, Pennsylvania, alone are limited in their ability to halt climate change and reverse its increasing effects on their shorelines and neighborhoods.

The Great Lakes region needs a boost through accelerated investments and strategic and coordinated support to get back on track.

Last year, President Biden and congressional Democrats accomplished what many had tried but failed to do, and that is pass an historic investment in jobs and infrastructure. That is step one.

This support will help empower our communities to begin planning the necessary steps to rebuilding roads and bridges, improve ports, rail lines and airports, modernize energy and water infrastructure, and protect all of our lakes, the freshwater kingdom on this continent.

But to maximize the impact and turbocharge revitalization, our region really needs a strategic plan to coordinate these resources along, importantly, with private investment to reboot our future.

The Great Lakes region is the only major economic region in our country that lacks a Federal entity dedicated to supporting its long-term coordinated economic development and conserving its natural environment.

The West's water is served by the Bureau of Reclamation, or if you look at the Delta Regional Authority, it helps 10 million people in the Delta Region. And more than 400 counties from Mis-

issippi to West Virginia are served by the Appalachian Regional Commission.

The Great Lakes deserves no less. The Great Lakes Authority Act is long overdue and will create an instrumentality to serve the Great Lakes fresh watershed which will become even more important in the decades to come with each passing day.

The Great Lakes Authority will be a Federal/State instrumentality like the others to spur job creation and world-class worker education, training, and adjustment in communities left behind.

It will foster innovation to build forward the struggling core U.S. manufacturing and industrial base. And it will promote new advances in renewable energy technologies like solar, wind and hydrogen while conserving and stewarding our precious environmental assets.

It will allow us an efficient multimodal transportation shared network with our closest neighbor, Canada, that connects people and goods with where they need to go. Indeed, Canada is our largest trading partner.

For America to compete in this century, we simply need a Great Lakes Authority, and I urge my colleagues to join us in this important effort. Please help us help the Great Lakes region.

AMERICAN BUDGET CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a crisis eroding the budgets of hard-working Americans.

Earlier this month, the price of unleaded gasoline rose to the highest level on record, and President Biden's anti-energy policies are directly responsible.

On the campaign trail, Joe Biden promised to end fossil fuels. Since assuming office, President Biden has worked to make good on that promise, imposing 81 individual anti-energy policies.

Coincidentally, the price of gasoline has risen 81 percent since the beginning of his presidency.

Analysts estimate that President Biden's anti-energy agenda will cost American families an additional \$2,000 per year in gasoline costs alone. This is staggering for the 64 percent of Americans who live paycheck to paycheck, thanks to rising costs.

President Biden claims he can't do much right now to reduce gas prices. This simply is not true. President Biden can end the Federal freeze on new oil and gas projects, fast track LNG export permits, expedite approval of all pipeline and energy development, and stop the regulatory barrage on U.S. energy development.

There is so much that can and should be done right now, and this crusade against American energy dominance must end.

RECOGNIZING THE SHERBURNE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary achievement of the Sherburne County Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Joel Brott, his deputies, and the Sherburne County Jail and clinic staff have earned the prestigious Triple Crown accreditation from the National Sheriffs' Association.

As one of only 50 sheriffs' offices in the country to earn the Triple Crown accreditation, this is a major achievement.

In fact, this accreditation is so rare that, according to the National Sheriffs' Association, fewer than 100 sheriffs' offices have qualified since its establishment in 1993.

The Triple Crown requires simultaneous accreditation by four law enforcement organizations. Achieving one of them is a feat, but gaining all four at once is truly remarkable.

Congratulations, Sheriff Brott. We applaud you and your entire staff for your exceptional work and commitment to excellence in law enforcement.

OWEN LIPINSKI HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a young hockey player in my district who embodies the spirit of our great sport.

For Minnesotans, hockey is a way of life. Like many young people in our State, Owen Lipinski grew up with a love for the game.

Sadly, when Owen was just 2 years old, he was diagnosed with Marfan syndrome, a connective tissue disorder that makes it difficult for him to play.

One rough hit could cause Owen to lose his eyesight or possibly even threaten his life.

However, this didn't stop him from playing. Owen participated in Minnesota Special Hockey and enjoyed it, but he still wanted more.

Recently, Owen organized a tournament with six teams composed of friends from his neighborhood. He organized the entire event on a pond in his back yard, complete with a public address system and a small concession stand.

As a fellow Minnesotan who loves the game, Owen is an inspiration. I am inspired by Owen and his great work. Congratulations on the tournament, Owen, and I hope you continue to inspire us for years to come.

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HONORING REBECCA BOOKER

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of one of my constituents, Ms. Rebecca Booker.

Rebecca has served the Blaine community as a certified fire and life safety educator for the last 20 years. Recently, Rebecca was honored with the 2022 Dr. Anne W. Phillips Award for Leadership in Fire Safety Education by the Congressional Fire Services Institute and the International Fire Service Training Association.